GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:223
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2016
Fire Safety
Agrawal Shri Rajendra

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms laid down for establishment of fire stations in the country along with the number of fire stations set up so far, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has assessed the requirement of fire stations in the States, if so, the details thereof along with the assistance being provided for setting up of new fire stations, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has provided funds for research project on fire safety through academic institutions in the country;

(d) if so, the details of such ongoing projects along with the total funds granted, released and utilised so far in this regard, institution and State-wise; and

(e) whether in view of frequent fire incidents in the country, the Government has any proposal to issue fire safety advisories/guidelines to the States and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
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STATEMENT IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*223 FOR 10.05.2016.

(a) & (b): As per the Constitution of India Article 243 (W) Schedule XII, maintenance of Fire Service is a Municipal function. It is therefore the primary responsibility of the Municipal bodies and the State Governments to provide adequate number of fire stations, fire tenders and trained manpower. The Standing Fire Advisory Council (SFAC) constituted by the Government of India, having representatives of all State Governments, has laid down certain norms for establishment of Fire Stations, Equipment, Manpower and Fire tenders/vehicles etc. It has recommended establishment of Fire Stations in the Country based on the response time which is 5 to 7 minutes in Urban areas and 20 minutes in Rural areas. These norms recommended by SFAC are advisory in nature. Taking these norms into account M/s Risk Management Solutions Inc. (RMSI), engaged by the Ministry of Home Affairs, carried out Fire and Risk Hazard analysis in the country and as per its report there are 2987 fire stations available in the country against the requirement of 8559 fire stations showing 65% deficiency. State wise number of operational fire stations is given at Annexure-I.
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(c) to (e): The Government of India has from time to time assisted efforts taken by the State Government in improvement of Fire Services in the country. The National Fire Service College, Nagpur (NFSC) provides training to the Fire Officers of the country in advanced techniques of fire fighting and rescue keeping in mind changes such as industrialization, growth of Indian industry, growing urbanization etc.

The Government of India under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme had provided funds to the tune of Rs. 176.56 crore during 2009-2013 for strengthening of fire and emergency services to States/UTs. In addition, a sum of Rs. 30 crore to States during 2014-15 and Rs. 4.00 crore to two Union Territories with legislature during 2015-16 under another scheme "Modernization of Fire services in the country (2014-16)" were also provided.

Apart from the above, based on the recommendations of the 10th, 11th and 13th Finance Commission, Rs. 80 crore, Rs. 201 crore and Rs. 404 crore respectively were also released to the states by the Government of India.
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The Government has taken note of frequent fire incidents in the country and issued several fire safety advisories to the State Governments. Further, the Directorate General (Fire Services, Civil Defence & Home Guards) also regularly prepares and supplies fire safety publicity/educational material, both printed and electronic, to State Governments, Public Sector Undertakings, and Private Industries to create awareness in the Public.

The National Disaster Management Authority has also issued guidelines during April, 2012 with the objective of standardizing scaling/ type of equipment and training of man power to modernize and improve fire fighting capabilities in the country.

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